

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for automatically determining a configuration of an I/O connector panel coupled to a system, the method comprising:

providing information about the capabilities of the I/O connector panel to a memory within the I/O connector panel, prior to connecting one or more peripherals to the I/O connector panel, wherein the I/O connector panel provides a connection point between I/O devices and the system;

examining the information in the memory; and

downloading at least one driver to the system coupled to the I/O connector panel based upon the examined information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the downloading step is provided by software that is independent of the type of I/O connector panel.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the system includes a core PC function block that is configured independently of the I/O connector panel.

5-16. (Canceled)

17. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the information comprises attributes of a type of the I/O connector panel, each connector installed on the I/O connector panel, and attributes of connector logic that links the I/O connector panel to the system.